

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 PA-01 CA-01
VO-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00
HA-05 FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 INR-10 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:JGHUFF:LR
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/SOV:RWFARRAND
EUR/SOV:WTSHINN JR.

-----127437 070153Z /75

O P 070030Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 226435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, UR, CGEN

SUBJECT: LISHINSKIY DEFECTION CASE

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET EMBASSY REQUEST, REPORTED
SEPTTEL, SOVIET EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES (PONOMAREV
AND POCH) MET WITH LISHINSKIY FAMILY IN DEPARTMENT AT
1230 LOCAL, SEPTEMBER 6. FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MEETING
TOOK PLACE IN GENERALLY CALM ATMOSPHERE PUNCTUATED
OCCASIONALLY BY CONTENTIOUS QUESTIONS FROM SOVIET SIDE.
SOVIET DESK OFFICERS (FARRAND AND HUFF) SAT IN ON US
SIDE AND FARRAND CONDUCTED MEETING.

2. THRUST OF SOVIET QUESTIONS WAS TO STIMULATE ADMISSION
BY LISHINSKIY THAT EITHER HE OR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY
WERE PRESSURED BY US INTO REQUESTING ASYLUM. LISHINSKIY
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DENIED THIS WAS THE CASE, STATING HE AND FAMILY HAD
MADE DECISION OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL BASED ON THEIR OWN
POLITICAL OPINIONS AND DESIRE TO BE FREE PERSONS LIVING
UNDER RULE OF LAW.

3. SOVIET QUESTIONERS SHOWED UNWONTED CONCERN FOR
WELLBEING OF LISHINSKIY AND FAMILY, AND PARTICULARLY

QUESTIONED DAUGHTER, IYEVA, AS TO HER FUTURE EDUCATIONAL

AND EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS. THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING LISHINSKIY GREETED WITH SARCASTIC COMMENT ABOUT HOW IMPRESSED HE WAS WITH CONCERN SOVIET OFFICIALS WERE NOW DEMONSTRATING RE LATVIA AND LATVIANS. THROUGHOUT PROCEEDINGS, LISHINSKIY MADE CLEAR HIS STRONG PRO-LATVIAN, ANTI-SOVIET FEELINGS.

4. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH PONOMAREV DECLARING THAT SOVIET EMBASSY STILL REGARDED LISHINSKIY FAMILY AS SOVIET CITIZENS AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ANY SOVIET INSTITUTION AT ANY TIME FOR ASSISTANCE IN EVENT THEY CHANGE THEIR MIND ABOUT PRESENT COURSE. LISHINSKIY REPLIED BY ONCE AGAIN STRESSING THAT NO US PRESSURE HAD BEEN APPLIED AND BY STATING HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE STATED GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES. TO PONOMAREV'S PARTING QUESTION OF WHAT PLANS THE FAMILY HAD FOR THE FUTURE, LISHINSKIY REPLIED "LET'S SEE."

5. MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:15 P.M. AT LISHINSKIY'S REQUEST. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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